

## **Our History**

The North Port Art Guild began in 1988, with artists meeting in private homes and public meeting rooms, holding classes, small art shows and planning for the future growth of arts in the changing community. The Guild was formally incorporated in 1993. In 2007 the North Port City Commissioners voted to lease a building to the Guild and the North Port Art Center was created. A second building, a double wide mobile unit, was added in 2010, through a gift from the State College of Florida to the City of North Port.

## **Arts Education**

The NPAC has been providing arts education at Sam Shapos Way in the Dallas White Park area for 17 years. It provides a variety of programs for youth .. HomeSchool classes using STEAM technology, AfterSchool classes, Winter and Summer youth arts camps with a focus on history, science, math and engineering. Watercolor, pastel, acrylic oils, scratchboard, pen and ink sketching, stained glass and pottery are some of the adult arts classes that have been offered at the NPAC, in addition to senior paint parties and special workshops for Veterans. Classes have been held in the morning, afternoon, evening and on weekends.

## **Gallery Shows**

Themed monthly art shows challenge artists and allows them to exhibit their artwork for others to enjoy. The NPAC has an Arts In Public Places program to display artwork in other locations, like the Welcome Center at Wellen Park, the North Port City Hall, Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty, Seniors Center and the Public Library.

## **Gift Shop**

The NPAC Artisan's Port gift shop has unique handcrafted art showcasing the talents of this artistic community. It allows visitors to purchase original art and support local artists.

## **The Future of the NPAC**

The NPAC must vacate the two buildings it has used to provide arts education to the North Port community on September 1, 2025. The City will be demolishing both buildings which have suffered damage by hurricanes over the past few years.

The NPAC expects to return to the same footprint with a larger art center to meet the growing needs of the dynamic North Port community, with meeting space available for use by other non-profits and local businesses.

During the transition, the NPAC is planning to provide arts programs at a variety of locations, such as the local library, public schools and churches. Gallery shows will be held at local businesses. The NPAC is reaching out to the community for temporary office space and classroom space.

There is a lot of work to be done. It will be a challenge to continue providing art classes until we have a new building; however, there are loyal art instructors, art students, volunteers, friends, staff and Board members who are dedicated to ensuring that the North Port community continues to have a vibrant arts education program for residents and visitors in this amazing community.

### **Community Support**

The NPAC will need financial support from the community. Initially, the NPAC is launching a “Grass Roots” fundraising campaign which allows area residents to make one-time donations, or monthly donations through the NPAC website, to fund the basics of transitioning from the current buildings to a destination art center to better serve the community. Donations can be made online by clicking on the “Grass Roots” donate button ..

<https://www.flipcause.com/secure/donate/Mjl2NDQz>

The NPAC has a Strategic Plan. Once the NPAC has an architectural plan, it will reach out to businesses, corporations and philanthropists to support the creation of a new art center.

If you have questions or suggestions to assist the NPAC as it makes plans for a NEW exciting, destination art center, please email [npac@npartcenter.org](mailto:npac@npartcenter.org).

**Submitted by Gale West, NPAC Board President January 2025**